

It is respectfully submitted that according to the teaching of Nichols, the spatial modulation of the bias magnetic flux in the rotor, which bias flux is generated in the stator rather than in the rotor, is achieved by means of the geometric design of the stator having radially inwardly protruding stator teeth and by means of the rotor having radially outwardly protruding flanges, rather than by the specific arrangement of permanent magnets on the rotor.

In contrast thereto, according to the invention as recited in claim 1, which now includes the subject matter of cancelled claim 2, the spatial modulation of the bias magnetic flux in the rotor is generated by permanent magnets that are distributedly arranged on the rotor in a manner so as to generate a spatially modulated bias magnetic flux in the rotor when viewed in the circumferential direction.

It is respectfully submitted that this is not rendered obvious by Nichols taken alone since Nichols teaches achieving the spatial modulation of the bias magnetic flux in the rotor by means of permanent magnets being arranged in the stator (rather than in the rotor) and by means of geometric designs of the stator and the rotor (rather than by a specific arrangement of the permanent magnets).

Lymon does not alter the result of the analysis of the Nichols reference. Lymon admittedly teaches to have a permanent magnet on the rotor. However, the permanent magnet is an axially polarized permanent magnet of ring form, (see column 3, lines 18-20) and therefore cannot generate a spatially modulated flux in the rotor when viewed in the circumferential direction since the ring form of the axially polarized permanent magnet leads to a homogenous distribution of the magnetic flux.

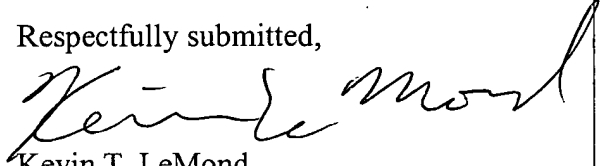
Accordingly, it is respectfully submitted that neither Nichols nor Lymon, either alone or in combination, teach, disclose or even suggest a magnetically journalled rotational arrangement as recited in claim 1. Accordingly, it is respectfully submitted that claim 1 is allowable.

Claims 3-10, 14-15 and 17-21 depend, either directly or indirectly, on claim 1 and therefore, they are allowable for at least the reasons claim 1 is allowable. These claims further define and augment the features of Applicant's invention.

CONCLUSION

In view of the foregoing, Applicant believes all claims now pending in this Application are in condition for allowance and an action to that end is urged. If the Examiner believes a telephone conference would aid in the prosecution of this case in any way, please call the undersigned at 415-576-0200.

Respectfully submitted,



Kevin T. LeMond
Reg. No. 35,933

TOWNSEND and TOWNSEND and CREW LLP
Two Embarcadero Center, 8th Floor
San Francisco, California 94111-3834
Tel: (415) 576-0200
Fax: (415) 576-0300
KTL:rgh